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**Questions & Answers #1 for
RFP # 050R6800122
Internet Service Provider for networkMaryland™ Pop at St. Paul
Closing Date: February 7, 2006 nlt 2:00 PM**

- 1. Question: We are a small, woman-owned company and would like to know if we would be considered a Minority Business Enterprise.**

Answer: In order to be considered a minority business and to participate in any State procurement as a Maryland Certified MBE, you must be certified by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

- 2. Question: Will a summary of the pre-proposal conference be distributed and/or posted online?**

Answer: Yes, a pre-proposal conference summary will be provided as well as any questions & answers received in writing to the Procurement Officer. Both will be distributed directly to those vendors on the distribution list as well as posted on the DBM website and eMaryland Marketplace.

- 3. Question: Do vendors have to be on the IT Data Master Contract in order to bid on this project?**

Answer: No, vendors need not be part of any Master Contract. This is a re-compete for ISP services at 6 St. Paul Street.

- 4. Question: Why is the contract term only for a two-year period?**

Answer: The Department has decided that technology changes so rapidly that it is more advantageous to the State to re-compete the contract every two years.

- 5. Question: Can vendors visit the PoP?**

Answer: Yes, vendors can visit the PoP after contacting the Procurement Officer and signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

- 6. Question: What type of equipment will the bandwidth be going into?**

Answer: A Non-Disclosure Agreement must be signed before we divulge this information. All equipment is State CPE (customer provided equipment).

- 7. Question: Is there any reason why there is no MBE requirement?**

Answer: Yes, this contract will be for one connection port for service, and no subcontracting opportunities are available.

- 8. Question: What is the timeframe for distributing Questions and Answers?**

Answer: Questions and Answers will go out in a timely manner to all known by the Procurement Officer.

- 9. Question: Will we receive a list of attendees?**

~Effective Resource Management~

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Answer: Yes, a copy was distributed to those in attendance and copies will be e-mailed to all known by the Procurement Officer.

10. Question: Who is the incumbent?

Answer: Qwest

11. Question: Why will the State not obtain services from Sprint for the Baltimore LATA?

Answer: The State prefers two different vendors for the Baltimore and District of Columbia LATAs to avoid any service interruption.

12. Question: What is the existing bandwidth capacity?

Answer: 100 Mbps is the current bandwidth capacity.

13. Question: Where do you see networkMaryland™ moving in the future?

Answer: The way that we forecast our services is also dependent upon our customers' needs. We could very well fill up to a gigabyte level of service in the near future.

14. Question: How many people currently use networkMaryland™?

Answer: There is no exact statistic on this, however, over 90% of State agencies use networkMaryland™.

15. Question: Do you anticipate a move to IP version 6?

Answer: We do not anticipate a move to IP version 6 during this contract period.

16. Question: Whose equipment will the Contractor be connecting to?

Answer: The Contractor will be connecting their network ISP into the Department's CPE.

17. Question: Is there any chance of extending the proposal due date?

Answer: It is unlikely that the proposal due date will be extended. There have been no substantive questions to date that warrant an extension.

18. Question: What is the anticipated time for contract award?

Answer: On or about March 1, 2006.